

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00431 310734Z

11

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 310305Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7431

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NP

SUBJECT: NEW PRIME MINISTER FOR NEPAL?

1. AGAINST INCREASING PRESS CRITICISM OF PRIME MINISTER RIJAL, WE ARE AGAIN HEARING RUMORS OF POSSIBLE MAJOR CABINET SHIFTS IN GON. MOST RECENT REPORT IS THAT FORMER PM BISTA MIGHT RETURN REPLACING RIJAL. WE JUDGE THIS TO BE WITHIN THE RANGE OF POSSIBILITY, AND BISTA IS KNOWN TO BE READY AND WILLING. HE HAS MAINTAINED HIS LINES TO THE PALACE SINCE HE STEPPED DOWN IN JULY, 1973; AND WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, PROMINENTLY FEATURED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER GIVING A LENGTHY ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY AT THE TUNDIKHEL JUST BEFORE HIS MAJESTY TOOK THE ROSTRUM.

2. WHETHER OR NOT CHANGE OF PRIME MINISTERS TAKES PLACE, PRINCIPAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY WILL CONTINUE TO REST IN PALACE. BISTA, HOWEVER, IS PERSONABLE AND ARTICULATE POLITICIAN WHO IS CAPABLE OF CARRY\*NG OUT LIMITED FUNCTIONS PRESENTLY REQUIRED OF A NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER. HIS PREVIOUS PERIOD OF OFFICE, HOWEVER, WAS MARRED BY SOME SCANDALS AND ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION, AND HIS REAPPOINTMENT MIGHT BE SEEN BY SOME NEPALIS AS A WEAKENING ON THE KING'S PART IN CAMPAIGN TO GET AT ROOTS OF CORRUPTION IN NEPAL.  
CARGO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, CABINET, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**From:** KATHMANDU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974013/aaaaacdn.tel  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW PRIME MINISTER FOR NEPAL?  
**TAGS:** PINS, NP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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